

HIGHLIGHTS

AOOS Board & EXCOM meetings – The AOOS Executive Committee met August 10 and approved the final Year 5 AOOS/IOOS budget. The full board met September 2 to review the proposed conceptual AOOS proposal to IOOS for the next 5 years. The board approved the proposed \$3m/year proposal but wanted more time to review the \$6m/year proposal. The board also established an Inclusion Working Group and charged it with reviewing AOOS' board membership, engagement policies and procedures, and subaward and contracting provisions to make sure these promote diversity and inclusion. The Working Group will report back to the full board in late December.

CDIP Wave Buoy Updates: 2020 has been a challenging year getting buoys turned around and kept in the water. The Lower Cook Inlet buoy was finally recovered in July, having been unable to transmit data since spring 2020 due to a dead battery and lost antennae. A new buoy was deployed in August, but after two weeks went adrift due to a severed mooring line. This buoy is expected to be back in the water mid to late-September. AOOS has received many calls from regional data users asking about this asset, illustrating the benefit for this high maritime-traffic area. Thanks for your patience while we get this asset back into operational status. The Port of Nome buoy was deployed in August with the generous assistance from the tug AVIK and her crew. Unfortunately, the buoy hull started to take on water as indicated by spurious data readings and was recovered after a week in the water to be sent back to CDIP for repairs. Being so late in the year, there is no plan to try to redeploy in 2020. The Kodiak CDIP buoy remains operational. AOOS has this buoy on loan through 2021.



Tug AVIK deployment of the Bering Strait CDIP Buoy off the Port of Nome. Photo Credit: Lucas Stotts, Harbormaster, Nome.



2020 Deployment of the "Whale Glider" for its annual Chukchi Sea mission. Photo Credit: Norseman 2.

Whale glider deployed: The Chukchi Sea glider was successfully deployed by the team onboard the Norseman 2 Saturday, September 12 for its 8th deployment since 2013. The glider was not able to complete its mission in 2019 due to buoyancy engine power on the glider being unable to penetrate the highly stratified Bering Strait waters being so warm and fresh in 2019. The glider's buoyancy engines were upgraded in 2019-20 to better accommodate strong density gradients and now is making its 2020 mission along the Chukchi coast. The glider reached its first waypoint as of Monday September 14 and is now steaming towards Point Hope. Congratulations to the project team: Hank Statscewich, Seth Danielson, Kate Stafford and Mark Baumgartner for getting this deployed and back into operation!

ADMINISTRATIVE

Year 5 subawards out – Holly and ASLC staff have gotten amendments out for all continuing year 5 subawards. The final year 5 descope is still being reviewed by the IOOS Program Office before going to NOAA Grants Management Division for final approval. Once that occurs, all the new subawards will be issued. Hats off to Holly and Tara Miller at the ASLC for all the work they put into this, and to Debra Esty and Oriana Villar for their prompt review at the IOOS PO end.

Proposal planning & development continues – AOOS staff have been working non-stop over the past 3 months preparing for the next 5 year proposal. Staff developed a draft Strategic Direction Document, which included 10 draft asset buildout plans and distributed them for public comment. Once public comment ended, staff compiled and synthesized all the engagement and comments received over the past 5 years, with an emphasis on the past year. Staff also finalized a draft conceptual proposal at the two funding scenarios: \$3m/year and \$6m/year. Whew! We are now waiting for additional board input before beginning work on the actual proposal itself. Target submission date is Thanksgiving week.

IOOS

IOOS FAC – As a member of the IOOS Federal Advisory Committee, Molly joined other committee members Aug 4-6 in reviewing and developing recommendations on IOOS vision and priorities, use of requirements for setting priorities, and messaging and branding.

IOOS Association Strategic planning – Molly also joined other IOOS Regional association directors and some RA board members in developing a strategic plan for the next 5 years for the IOOS Association. Initial planning sessions in August focused on the IA vision, mission, core values, and goals and objectives.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/PRESENTATIONS

NOAA OA-HABs Workshop – Molly, Kris Holderied, and other members of the Alaska OA Network and the Alaska HAB network met Aug 11-13 with a large group of researchers from around the country to identify needed research at the OA-HAB interface. Input from the 3 days of meetings, hosted by the OA Program and NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science will be used to develop a future funding opportunity.

IOOS-OAR Pacific workshop – Molly, Carol, Darcy, and Rob Bochenek participated in a 2-day workshop Aug 25-26 with the goal of increasing collaborations between the IOOS regions and OAR's Pacific research team. The group used ocean acidification, marine heat waves, autonomous vehicles, and artificial intelligence/cloud computing as case studies for identifying ways to foster joint research activities.

Alaska Marine Policy Forum - Alaska Sea Grant and AOOS hosted the September bi-monthly conference call on September 16 focusing on recent news regarding the mariculture industry in Alaska. A summary of the call will be posted on the AOOS website soon.

IARPC Arctic Data Collaboration Sub-Team Meeting – Jill presented the Bering Region Ocean Data Sharing Initiative to the team on August 27, specifically highlighting the new Bering Data Integration Portal and WWF project on emergency response in the Bering Strait.

COLLABORATIONS

New AHAB coordinator – Molly and Darcy were part of a review team that selected a coordinator for the Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network. Thomas Farrugia, a marine scientist and former Knauss Fellow and UAF PhD, will begin on November 2. The network is excited to have its first full-time coordinator to advance projects such as finalizing the Alaska HABS Action Plan, expanding HABS monitoring in the Arctic, advancing data management and visualization and collaborating with national HABS program, thanks to funds given to the IOOS program by Congress to pilot HABS monitoring across the country.



Alaska Ocean Acidification Network – The Alaska OA Network steering committee met Sept 14 to discuss the 2020/2021 work plan, data synthesis and visualization, the State of the Science report, and ideas for engagement with shellfish growers and teachers. Currently on the network website: [Meet scientist Tom Hurst](#) and check out a [new oceanography data tool](#) in the Gulf of Alaska that includes OA.

AMEC Coastal Subcommittee – Molly and Marta Kumle are participating in a new subcommittee of the Alaska Mapping Executive Committee that is meeting monthly to produce an implementation plan. This is the next step in execution of the 10-year Alaska Coastal mapping strategy that was released in June 2020.

CIRCAC – As the Municipality of Anchorage representative and chair of its Environmental Monitoring Committee, Molly joined the full Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council at its Aug 28 meeting. The meeting was supposed to be in Seldovia but was held virtually instead. Fall meetings are usually a time to update everyone on summer field activities and review proposed budgets before the main board meeting in December.

DATA MANAGEMENT

DataONE Community Meeting – The Axiom Data Science team participated in the DataONE Community Meeting August 11- 13 on behalf of the Research Workspace DataONE Member Node. In the past year over which DataONE has transitioned from a largely NSF-funded project to an ongoing community-driven program, significant progress has been made towards reshaping and sustaining the DataONE community and network. This meeting provided an update on the status of the program, offered network repository highlights, and provided a high-level description of the program’s network and financial sustainability strategy moving forward.

Ocean Data Explorer – The Axiom team has development work underway to add new data and features to the Ocean Data Explorer, including: visualization of over 25 year of beached bird data along the Alaska coast from the COASST program; access to quality-checked data streams from the PMEL Ocean Acidification moorings; refactor and gridding of regional and global forecast models for enhanced load time and virtual sensor performance; and ingestion of real-time data streams from the new web service for SnoTel and SCAN stations.

ENGAGEMENT METRICS

Audience Name	Type of Presentation	# of people
Alaska Marine Policy Forum	public conference call	51
IARPC Arctic Data Collaboration Sub-Team	Bering Region Ocean Data Sharing Initiative	20

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept 16 PICES 2020 Monitor Technical Meeting Session – virtual (Carol)
- Sept 16-18 Sustaining Ocean Observations workshop - virtual (Molly)
- Sept 29-30 NOAA Ocean Acidification Program review – virtual (Darcy)
- Oct 5-30 MTS/OES/IEEE Global OCEANS 2020: Singapore – U.S. Gulf Coast: First-ever virtual OCEANS conference (Carol)

Molly McCammon, Carol Janzen, Holly Kent, Darcy Dugan, Jill Prewitt, Nic Kinsman and our data team at Axiom Data Science